



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WARM WEATHER MAY SPAWN NEW MOSQUITOES**

### ***West Nile Virus Still Spreading Through the County***

County Vector Control officials announced today that 15 more dead birds have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), bringing the season-high total to 124 infected birds. Last year's season total was 34 infected birds.

"The current Santa Ana conditions may generate a new crop of mosquitoes that will continue to spread West Nile virus throughout the county," said Gary Erbeck, director of the County Department of Environmental Health. "Even though summer has ended and fall has arrived, residents still need to take the threat of West Nile virus seriously."

County residents should continue to take precautionary measures to avoid getting mosquito bites and acquiring the virus.

Precautionary measures include wearing insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus; wearing long sleeves and long pants when outside, especially at dawn and dusk; ensuring windows and screens are well-maintained to keep mosquitoes from entering the home; and eliminating standing water around your property to avoid mosquito-breeding areas.

"West Nile virus will continue to be a real threat until the mosquito-breeding season ends with the onset of cooler weather, which usually arrives in late October or November," said Erbeck.

To report dead birds or get more information about West Nile virus, visit the County's Web site at [www.SDFightTheBite.com](http://www.SDFightTheBite.com) or call 1-888-551-INFO (4636).

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